

**TOWN OF ABINGDON  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
MONDAY, JUNE 2, 2014 – 7:30 P.M.  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS - MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

A regular meeting of the Abingdon Town Council was held on Monday, June 2, 2014 at 7:30 p.m. in the Council chambers of the Municipal Building.

**A. Welcome by Mayor Morgan**

**B. Roll Call – Cecile Rosenbaum, Town Clerk**

Members of Council Present: Edward B. Morgan, Mayor  
Mrs. Cathy Lowe, Vice Mayor  
Mr. Richard E. Humphreys  
Mr. Robert M. Howard  
Mrs. Jayne A. Duehring

Administrative/Town Staff: Garrett Jackson, Assistant Town Manager  
Cecile Rosenbaum, Town Clerk  
Deborah Icenhour, Town Attorney  
Mark Godbey, Town Treasurer  
Jim Smith, Dir. Of Wastewater Operations/Town Eng.  
John Dew, Dir. Public Services/Construction  
Floyd Bailey, Dir. Information Technology  
Tony Sullivan, Chief of Police  
Deborah Atkins-Vance, Dir. Human Resources  
Kevin Worley, Dir. of Parks & Recreation  
John McCormick, Fire Chief

*Administrative Town Staff Absent: Gregory W. Kelly, Town Manager*

Visitors: Judge Sage Johnson, Susan Howard, Susan Forkner,  
Mayor Emeritus, Lois Humphreys, Susan Humphreys  
and others

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**C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chief Tony Sullivan.

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At this time, Mayor Morgan noted that Greg Kelly, Town Manager was not able to attend the meeting because of his father, Cecil Kelly's recent hospitalization. Mayor Morgan asked everyone to keep the Kelly family in their thoughts and prayers.

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**D. ADMINISTRATION OF OATHS OF OFFICE – Council Members Cathy Lowe, Bob Howard, Rick Humphreys, and Jayne Duehring.**

The Honorable Sage Johnson, Judge, Washington County Circuit Court administered the oaths of office for each of the newly elected Council members Cathy Lowe, Jayne Duehring, Rick Humphreys and Bob Howard. Mayor Morgan congratulated each member and thanked them and their families for their service to the Town of Abingdon.

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**E. SPECIAL EMPLOYEE ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS and INTRODUCTION OF NEW POLICE OFFICERS.**

- Garrett Jackson, Assistant Town Manager recognized John Wolfe, Head Custodian at the Coomes Recreation Center for his twenty years of service to the town and awarded him with his 20 year plaque and service pin.
  
- ***Tony Sullivan, Chief of Police*** introduced three (3) new police officers that have hired at the Police Department. They are:
  - Yancey Wilmoth
  - Kayla Richardson
  - Andrew Mehl

Mayor Morgan welcomed Ms. Wilmoth, Mr. Mehl, and Ms. Richardson to the department and to the Town of Abingdon.

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**F. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- June 2, 2014 Work Session Meeting
- June 2, 2014 Regular Meeting

**G. PETITIONS, PUBLIC HEARINGS AND FIRST READING OF ORDINANCES.**

- 1. First Reading – Public Hearing – An Ordinance of the Council of the Town of Abingdon, Virginia to Repeal, Amend and Reenact Appendix B-Zoning Ordinance, Article II, B-2, General Business District, of the Code of Ordinances of the Town of Abingdon, Virginia.**

Garrett Jackson, Assistant Town Manager reported on the matter before Council for consideration relative to a request to include dog daycare/kennels as a special use in the Town's B-2 General Business District. Mr. Jackson noted that it would require a change to the Zoning Ordinance and that change had been advertised and considered before the Planning Commission. Mr. Jackson noted it was a 4-1-1 vote in favor of the change in the Ordinance.

Mayor Morgan declared the public hearing open.

Susan Forkner of 155 Crestview Drive, Abingdon commented that she owned the land where the proposed business would take place and asked her business partner Ahmed Almesallmy to comment on the business plan. Mr. Almesallmy commented that the business would be equipped to handle 65 to 75 dogs, divided by size and temperament, and that measures would be in place to eliminate the barking noise heard from the outside of the building.

Hearing no further comments, Mayor Morgan closed the public hearing.

**On motion of Mrs. Duehring, seconded by Mr. Humphreys, the Council adopted the Ordinance to Repeal, Amend and Reenact Appendix B-Zoning Ordinance, Article II, B-2, General Business District, of the Code of Ordinances of the Town of Abingdon, Virginia.**

**The roll call vote was as follows:**

|                      |            |
|----------------------|------------|
| <b>Mr. Howard</b>    | <b>Aye</b> |
| <b>Mr. Humphreys</b> | <b>Aye</b> |
| <b>Mrs. Duehring</b> | <b>Aye</b> |
| <b>Mrs. Lowe</b>     | <b>Aye</b> |
| <b>Mayor Morgan</b>  | <b>Aye</b> |

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**H. SECOND READINGS - None.**

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**I. SECOND READINGS OF ORDINANCES**

- 1. Second Reading – An Ordinance of the Council of the Town of Abingdon to Repeal, Amend and Reenact Article II, Chapter 66, Real Property Tax §66-42 of the Code of the Town of Abingdon, Virginia to Amend the Property Tax Exemption for Property Owners Qualifying as Elderly and/or Totally and Permanently Handicapped.**

Deb Icenhour, Town Attorney reported that this amendment to the Ordinance was before Council in order to change the amount of tax exemption for qualifying property owners designated as elderly and/or permanently handicapped. Ms. Icenhour noted that the current exemption rate had been unchanged in several years and this would bring the exemption amount in line with what Washington County, Virginia recently adopted for residents. Ms. Icenhour commented that the amendment required Council to hold a public hearing and a second reading.

**On motion of Mr. Humphreys, seconded by Mrs. Lowe, the Council approved the Ordinance of the Council of the Town of Abingdon to Repeal, Amend and Reenact Article II, Chapter 66, Real Property Tax §66-42 of the Code of the Town of Abingdon, Virginia to Amend the Property Tax Exemption for Property Owners Qualifying as Elderly and/or Totally and Permanently Handicapped.**

The roll call vote was as follows:

|                      |            |
|----------------------|------------|
| <b>Mr. Howard</b>    | <b>Aye</b> |
| <b>Mr. Humphreys</b> | <b>Aye</b> |
| <b>Mrs. Duehring</b> | <b>Aye</b> |
| <b>Mrs. Lowe</b>     | <b>Aye</b> |
| <b>Mayor Morgan</b>  | <b>Aye</b> |

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- 2. Second Reading – An Ordinance of the Council of the Town of Abingdon, Virginia Proposing a Budget for the Town of Abingdon, Virginia and to Make Appropriation for the Current Expenses of the Town and To Fix a Tax Rate Upon Real and Personal Property, to Fix All Other Local Tax Rates and Fees and Rates on Utility Services for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2014 and Ending June 30, 2015 –**

Garrett Jackson, Assistant Town Manager provided a summary of the process for the preparation of the FY 2014/2015 budget. Mr. Jackson noted that the total proposed budget this year was in excess of \$16M and noted that tax rates, fees and charges for the town would remain the same with the only change for 2014/2015 being in the allowance for elderly and handicapped real property tax exemption which will increase once Council approves the final adoption of the Ordinance. Mr. Jackson commented that the total amount of the General Fund equals \$16,639,303 and the total amount of the Sewer Fund equals \$3,013,118. Mr. Jackson reported that the amount of \$550,000 would be transferred from reserves to carry out the costs associated with Capital Improvement Projects for the upcoming year.

**On motion of Mr. Howard, seconded by Mrs. Duehring, the Council approved the Ordinance Proposing a Budget for the Town of Abingdon, Virginia and to Make Appropriation for the Current Expenses of the Town and To Fix a Tax Rate Upon Real and Personal Property, to Fix All Other Local Tax Rates and Fees and Rates on Utility Services for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2014 and Ending June 30, 2015.**

**The roll call vote was as follows:**

<b>Mr. Howard</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Humphreys</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mrs. Duehring</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mrs. Lowe</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Morgan</b>	<b>Aye</b>

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**J. CONSIDERATION OF ANY BIDS – None.**

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**K. REPORTS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER**

**1. Consideration of purchase of a 50KW generator for installation in the Police Department building.**

Floyd Bailey, Director of Information Technology reported that he had received three (3) quotes for the purchase of a 50KW generator to be installed at the Police Department building. Mr. Bailey reviewed the quotes with Council and noted that this generator was important because it would provide power to the Police Department during outages and would allow the IT data system to remain active

relative to internet, servers, alert system and other vital operations needed during an emergency. Mr. Bailey asked that Council consider approving the quote provided by Carter CAT for a price of \$30,697.50.

**On motion of Mr. Howard, seconded by Mrs. Lowe, the Council approved the quote from Carter CAT for the purchase of a 50KW generator for installation at the Police Department for the amount of \$30,697.50.**

**The roll call vote was as follows:**

<b>Mr. Howard</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Humphreys</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mrs. Duehring</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mrs. Lowe</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Morgan</b>	<b>Aye</b>

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**2. Consideration of purchase of replacement of the Fire Alarm Panel Monitoring System for the Harry L. Coomes Recreation Center.**

Kevin Worley, Director of Parks and Recreation reported that the Fire Alarm Monitoring System at the Coomes Center had malfunctioned and was in need of replacement. Mr. Worley noted that this system breakdown constituted a code violation and it needed to be replaced as quickly as possible. Mr. Worley indicated that he has received a quote from Simplex Grinnell for the amount of \$9,800 and recommended that Council consider approving the quote and authorizing him to move forward with the replacement.

**On motion of Mrs. Lowe, seconded by Mr. Howard the Council approved the purchase of a Fire Alarm Panel Monitoring System for the Coomes Center from Simplex Grinnell for the amount of \$9,800.**

**The roll call vote was as follows:**

|                      |            |
|----------------------|------------|
| <b>Mr. Howard</b>    | <b>Aye</b> |
| <b>Mr. Humphreys</b> | <b>Aye</b> |
| <b>Mrs. Duehring</b> | <b>Aye</b> |
| <b>Mrs. Lowe</b>     | <b>Aye</b> |
| <b>Mayor Morgan</b>  | <b>Aye</b> |

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**L. RESOLUTIONS**

**1. A Resolution of the Council of the Town of Abingdon, Virginia Certifying the Virginia Retirement System (VRS) Employer Contribution Rate and Authorizing the Town Manager and Town Treasurer to Carry Out the Provisions of the Resolution.**

Deborah Atkins-Vance, Director of Human Resources commented on the Resolution before Council for consideration and noted that it was an annual requirement by Virginia Retirement System relative to confirmation of the town's Employer Contribution Rate. Ms. Atkins-Vance recommended Council adopt the Resolution as presented.

**On motion of Mr. Humphreys, seconded by Mr. Howard, the Council adopted the Resolution of the Council of the Town of Abingdon, Virginia Certifying the Virginia Retirement System (VRS) Employer Contribution Rate and Authorizing the Town Manager and Town Treasurer to Carry Out the Provisions of the Resolution as follows:**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF ABINGDON, VIRGINIA CERTIFYING THE VIRGINIA RETIREMENT SYSTEM (VRS) EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTION RATE AND AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER AND TOWN TREASURER TO CARRY OUT THE PROVISIONS OF THE RESOLUTION**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Town of Abingdon, Virginia 55300 does hereby acknowledge that its contribution rates effective July 1, 2014 shall be based on the higher of a) the contribution rate in effect for FY2014, or b) eighty percent of the results of the June 30, 2013 actuarial valuation of assets and liabilities as approved by the Virginia Retirement System Board of Trustees for the 2014-2016 biennium (the "Alternate Rate") provided that, as its option, the contribution rate may be based on the employer contribution rates certified by the Virginia Retirement System Board of Trustees pursuant to Virginia Code §51.1-145(I) resulting from the June 30, 2013 actuarial value of assets and liabilities (the "Certified Rate"); and

**BE IT ALSO RESOLVED**, that the town of Abingdon 55300 does hereby certify to the Virginia Retirement System Board of Trustees that it elects to pay the following contribution rate effective July 1, 2014:

- ✓ **The Certified Rate of 8.42%**

**BE IT ALSO RESOLVED**, that the Town of Abingdon 55300 does hereby certify to the Virginia Retirement System Board of Trustees that it has reviewed and understands the

information provided by the Virginia Retirement System outlining the potential future fiscal implications of any election made under the provisions of this resolution; and

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the officers of the Town of Abingdon 55300 are hereby duly authorized and directed in the name of the Town of Abingdon to carry out the provisions of this resolution, and said officers of the Town of Abingdon are authorized and directed to pay over to the Treasurer of Virginia from time to time such sums as are due to be paid by the Town of Abingdon for this purpose.

**The roll call vote was as follows:**

<b>Mr. Howard</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Humphreys</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mrs. Duehring</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mrs. Lowe</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Morgan</b>	<b>Aye</b>

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**M. MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA**

- Gary Roark of Lowry Drive, Abingdon commented on the property across from his home owned by MXI. Mr. Roark noted that the property was in poor condition and asked the Council to take action to remedy the situation.

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**N. COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS**

- Mrs. Lowe commented on Mr. Worley's presentation at a recent Rotary Club meeting and asked Mr. Worley to comment on the handicapped accessible playground project.
- Mr. Humphreys commented on the recent passing of a town resident everyone called "Mule" who died just before his 98<sup>th</sup> birthday.
- Mayor Morgan congratulated the graduates of Abingdon High School Senior Class and noted that his son Peter and another Abingdon graduate, Ellen Clay, had recently competed in a marathon.

**O. APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMITTEES**

1. *Tourism Advisory Board*

- **Appointment of Janet Woolwine who is eligible to serve a second term**



**On motion of Mr. Humphreys, seconded by Mrs. Duehring, the Council reappointed Janet Woolwine to a second term on the Tourism Advisory Board.**

**The roll call vote was as follows:**

<b>Mr. Howard</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Humphreys</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mrs. Duehring</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mrs. Lowe</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Morgan</b>	<b>Aye</b>

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- Appointment of representative to fill the restaurant representative as Doug Ellis is not eligible for reappointment to a second term

**2. *Abingdon Redevelopment and Housing Authority Board***

- Appointment to fill the unexpired term of Dr. Mike Rush who has resigned his seat on the board (*Continued from May 5, 2014 Regular meeting*)

**3. *Veterans Memorial Park Board***

- Appointment of Council member to serve on the Veterans Park Board

**On motion of Mr. Humphreys, seconded by Mrs. Duehring, Council agreed to table the three remaining appointments on the Tourism Advisory Committee, the Abingdon Redevelopment and Housing Authority and the Veterans Memorial Park Board till a later time.**

**The roll call vote was as follows:**

|                      |            |
|----------------------|------------|
| <b>Mr. Howard</b>    | <b>Aye</b> |
| <b>Mr. Humphreys</b> | <b>Aye</b> |
| <b>Mrs. Duehring</b> | <b>Aye</b> |
| <b>Mrs. Lowe</b>     | <b>Aye</b> |
| <b>Mayor Morgan</b>  | <b>Aye</b> |

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Mayor Morgan declared the meeting adjourned.

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Edward B. Morgan, Mayor

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Cecile M. Rosenbaum, Town Clerk